

A NEW SPECIES OF *TAPINANTHUS* (LORANTHACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

An evaluation of the nomenclature of *Tapinanthus minor* revealed that this name has been misapplied to a species which is here described as *T. gracilis* Toelken & Wiens.

UITTREKSEL

'N NUWE *TAPINANTHUS* SOORT (LORANTHACEAE)

'n Hersiening van die nomenklatuur van *Tapinanthus minor* het gewys dat dié naam verkeerdelik gebruik is vir 'n spesie wat hier as *T. gracilis* Toelken & Wiens beskryf word.

Since Harvey (1862) described *Loranthus zeyheri* var. *minor* there has been uncertainty about the identity of the variety. In the description Harvey stated that the flowers of *L. zeyheri* resembled those of *L. natalitius*, and this may be the reason why Wood (1907) transferred var. *minor* to *L. natalitius*. Sprague (1915) explained that he considered var. *minor* erroneously placed under *L. zeyheri* and followed Wood in citing it as *L. natalitius* var. *minor* in the synonymy of *L. minor*.

Sprague did not quote the type specimen of *L. minor* among the material investigated, and it seems that he had not seen it as he cited only specimens from the Natal coast. The specimen *Gerrard 1434* (K) which is annotated '*L. natalitius* var. *minor*' in an undetermined hand is probably the origin of all the confusion as it must be identified as the species now described. This specimen was incorporated in Kew herbarium in 1865 and according to the archives at Kew could have been one of many other Gerrard specimens received from Harvey.

Var. *minor*, as interpreted by Wood (1907), and *L. minor*, as used by Sprague (1915), refer to this slender plant from the lowland mountains of the south-east Transvaal, Swaziland and Natal coast. Neither Burke nor Zeyher ever collected anywhere near those areas.

The original var. *minor* was based on a depauperate specimen of *L. zeyheri* mounted together with a larger specimen of *Zeyher 751*. As Harvey annotated the

depauperate specimen (751a) separately "omnino *L. Zeyheri*, sed foliis floribusque minoribus. *L. Zeyheri* minor" there is no need to select a lectotype.

The taxonomy of this complex is therefore recast as follows:

1. *Tapinanthus natalitius* (Meisn.) Danser in Verh. K. Akad. Wet., sect. 2, 29, 6: 116 (1933). Type: Natal, sine loc. exact., *Krauss* 208 (K, holo.!).

1a. subsp. *natalitius*.

Loranthus natalitius Meisn. in Hooker, Lond. J. Bot. 2: 539 (1843); Harv. in Fl. Cap. 2: 576 (1862); Sprague in Fl. Cap 5, 2: 114 (1915); Ross, Fl. Natal 152 (1972); Gibson, Wild Flow. Natal, pl. 30, 1 (1974).

Acranthemum natalitium (Meisn.) v. Tieghem in Bull. Soc. bot. Fr. 42: 255 (1895).

Distinguished mainly from subsp. *zeyheri* by usually having obovate leaves which are 40–50 mm long, glabrous and glaucous. The corolla and pedicels are usually glabrous and the subspecies occurs mainly in Natal.

1b. subsp. *zeyheri* (Harv.) Wiens in Bothalia 12: 423 (1978).

Type: Transvaal, Magaliesberg, *Zeyher* 751 (K, holo.!, S! SAM!).

Loranthus zeyheri Harv. in Fl. Cap. 2: 576 (1862); Sprague in Fl. Cap. 5, 2: 113 (1915); Burt Davy, Fl. Transv. 465 (1932); Letty, Wild Flow. Transv. pl. 61, 4 (1962).

Acranthemum zeyheri (Harv.) v. Tieghem in Bull. Soc. bot. Fr. 42: 255 (1895).

Tapinanthus zeyheri (Harv.) Danser in Verh. K. Akad. Wet., sect. 2, 29, 6: 122 (1933).

L. zeyheri Harv. *minor* Harv. in Fl. Cap. 2: 576 (1862). Type: Transvaal, Magaliesberg, *Zeyher* 571a (S, holo.!).

Tapinanthus minor (Harv.) Danser in Verh. K. Akad. Wet., sect. 2, 29, 6: 116 (1933).

L. moorei Sprague in Kew Bull. 1915: 70, 80 (1915); in Fl. Cap. 5, 2: 114 (1915); Burt Davy, Fl. Transv. 465 (1932).

Tapinanthus moorei (Sprague) Danser in Verh. K. Akad. Wet., sect. 2, 29, 6: 116 (1933). Type: Transvaal, near Barberton, *Moore s.n.* (K, holo.!).

The leaves of this subspecies are mostly oblanceolate to obovate, 20–30 mm long, mostly puberulent to pubescent. The corolla is puberulent to hirsute; pedicels puberulent to pubescent. This subspecies occurs mainly in the Transvaal.

2. *Tapinanthus gracilis* Toelken & Wiens, sp. nov. a *T. natalitio* foliis prasinis parvis (13–45 X 5–15 mm) et floribus gracilioribus differt.

Loranthus natalitius Meisn. var. *minor* (Harv.) Wood, Handb. Natal Pl. 115 (1907), pro parte typo excl.

L. minor (Harv.) Sprague in Kew Bull. 1915: 80 (1915), pro parte; in Fl. Cap. 5, 2: 115 (1915), pro parte quoad spec. enum.

Fruticuli ramis gracilibus usque ad 0,5 m longis, glabri. *Folia* sub-opposita rare spiralia, petiolata vel subsessilia; lamina elliptica vel oblongo-oblancheolata, rare obovata, (13-) 20-35 (-45) X 5-10 (-15) mm, cuneata, plerumque acuta, venis tribus a base, aliquantum coriacea, prasina; petiolus 0-3 (-5) mm longus. *Inflorescentia* umbella (1) 2-6 floribus ramorum brevium lateralium ad apicem, glabra; pedicelli (3-) 5-10 mm longi. *Calyx* cupulatus et sine lobis, c. 1,5 mm longus. *Corolla* glabra; tubus cylindricus, gracilis, 30-40 mm longus, leviter tumidus ad basim, plus minusve penitus fissus, pallide roseus; lobi partim connati vel discreti, 10-12 (-15) mm longi, olivacei lutei et sanguinei fasciati circum antheras. *Anthera* 6-8 mm longa. *Baccae* obovoideae vel paene sphaericae, 8-10 mm longae, rubrae.

Type: Natal, 12 km N. of Josini, Tölken & Germishuizen 5797 (PRE, holo.!).

Shrublets with slender branches up to 0,5 m long, glabrous. *Leaves* sub-opposite rarely spirally arranged, petiolate to subsessile; blade elliptic to oblong-oblancheolate, rarely obovate, (13-) 20-35 (-45) X 5-10 (-15) mm, cuneate, usually bluntly acute, with three major veins from the base, somewhat leathery, dark green; petiole 0-3 (-5) mm long. *Inflorescence* umbellate with (1) 2-6 flowers at the apex of spur-branches, glabrous; pedicels (3-) 5-10 mm long. *Calyx* cup-shaped and without lobes, c. 1,5 mm long. *Corolla* glabrous; tube cylindrical, 30-40 mm long, slender, slightly swollen at the base, more or less deeply split, pale pink; lobes partly fused to completely free, 10-12 (-15) mm long, olive green with a band of yellow and deep red around the anthers. *Anthers* 6-8 mm long. *Berries* obovoid to almost spherical, 8-10 mm long, red.

Parasitic on a large number of hosts including species of *Acacia*, *Acalypha*, *Berchemia*, *Dombeya*, *Ehretia*, *Grewia*, *Maytenus*, *Olea*, *Plumbago*, *Tarchonanthis*, *Viscum* and *Zanthoxylum*. Recorded from frost-free areas in the south-eastern Transvaal, Swaziland and through the coastal areas of Natal to the southern parts of this province.